

EXHIBIT 4, PART 1



US006319125B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Acres

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,319,125 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Nov. 20, 2001**

(54) **METHOD APPARATUS FOR PROMOTING
PLAY ON A NETWORK OF GAMING
DEVICES**

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(List continued on next page.)

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(75) **Inventor:** John Acres, Corvallis, OR (US)

(73) **Assignee:** Acres Gaming Incorporated, Las Vegas, NV (US)

(*) **Notice:** This patent issued on a continued prosecution application filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d), and is subject to the twenty year patent term provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(a)(2).

Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days

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(21) **Appl. No.:** 08/843,411

(22) **Filed:** Apr. 15, 1997

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Continuation of application No. 08/465,915, filed on Jun. 6, 1995, now Pat. No. 5,752,882, which is a division of application No. 08/322,172, filed on Oct. 12, 1994, now Pat. No. 5,655,961.

(51) **Int. Cl.** A63F 9/22
(52) **U.S. Cl.** 463/25; 463/42
(58) **Field of Search** 463/40-42, 25, 463/29

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Primary Examiner—Michael O'Neill

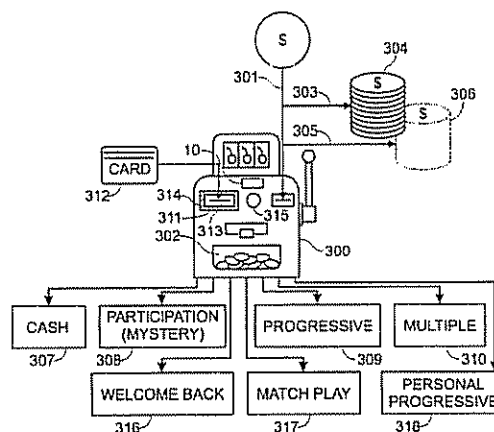
Assistant Examiner—John M. Hotelling, II

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Marger Johnson & McCollom, PC

(57) ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for controlling a bonusing promotion system using a bonus server interconnected to a plurality of gaming devices is described. A percentage of a wager played on each gaming device is accumulated into a bonus pool stored on the bonus server. The bonus pool is compared to a threshold value stored on the bonus server each time the bonus pool changes. One of the gaming devices is selected when the threshold value is substantially met. A bonus prize funded by the bonus pool is awarded to the selected gaming device.

22 Claims, 31 Drawing Sheets



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Fig. 1

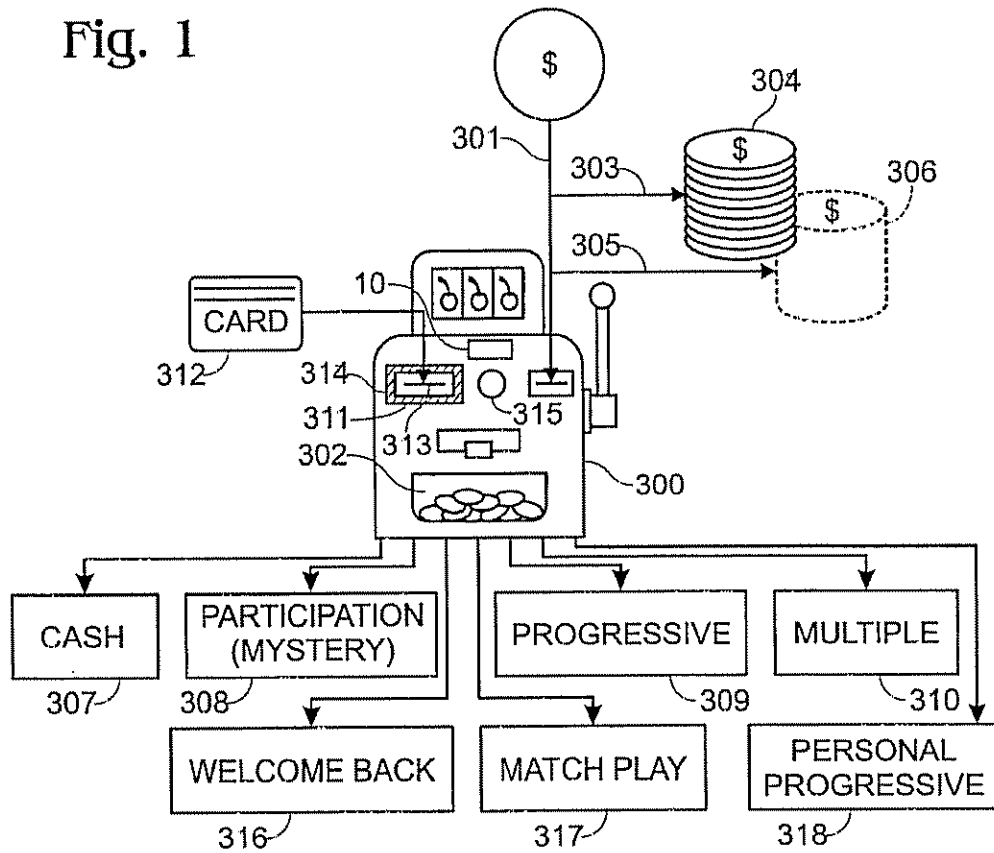
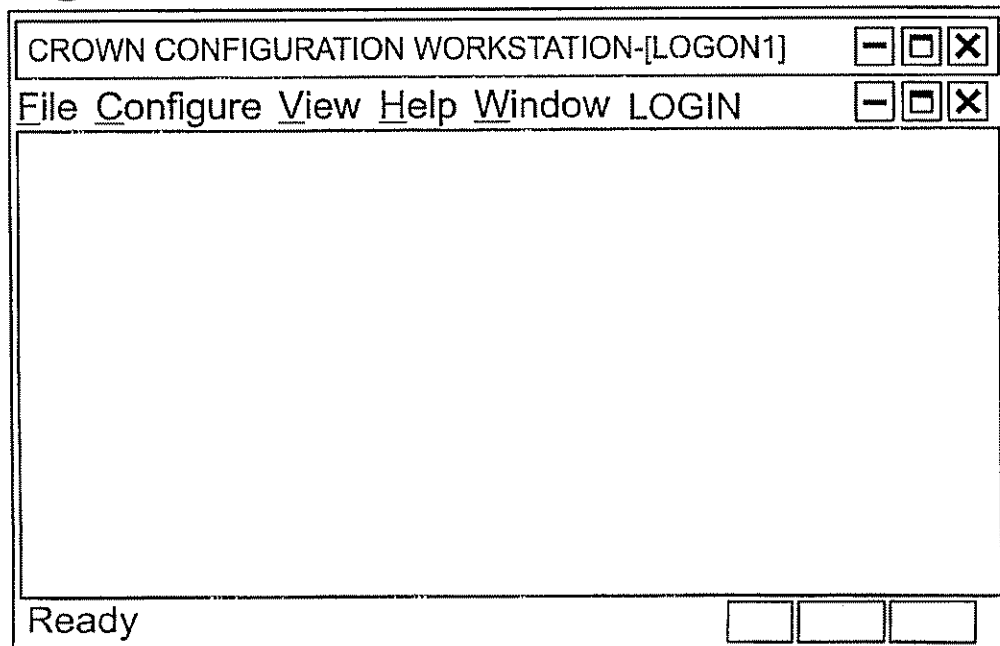


Fig. 2A



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Fig. 2B

The screenshot shows a window titled "CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION-[LOGON1]" with a menu bar containing "File", "Configure", "View", "Help", "Window", and "LOGIN". Inside the window is a smaller dialog box titled "USER LOGIN / PASSWORD VERIFICATION". This dialog box contains two sections: "CROWN CASINO" and "VCGA". Each section has "NAME" and "PASSWORD" labels followed by text input fields. To the right of these fields are "OK" and "CANCEL" buttons. The status bar at the bottom of the main window shows the word "Ready" and three empty square icons.

Fig. 2D

The screenshot shows a window titled "CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1]" with a menu bar containing "File", "Configure", "View", "Help", "Window", and "LOGOUT". Inside the window is a smaller dialog box titled "ABOUT CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION". This dialog box contains a small square icon, the text "CROWN CASINO CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION", "VERSION 1.04", "COPYRIGHT©1996 ACRES GAMING", and "ALL RIGHTS RESERVED". An "OK" button is located at the bottom right of the dialog box. The status bar at the bottom of the main window shows the word "Ready" and three empty square icons.

Fig. 2C

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT

CHOOSE BONUS TO EDIT OR CREATE:

BONUS INFORMATION

BONUS TYPE

PROGRESSIVE

DEFINED BONUSES AVAILABLE SERVERS

NUMBERS OF POOL DEFINED

EDIT PARAMETERS

EDIT JACKPOT VALUES

ADD NEW POOL

DELETE POOL

CREATE NEW BONUS

REFRESH SERVER LIST

CANCEL

☒ LOAD FROM DISK

Ready

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Fig. 2E

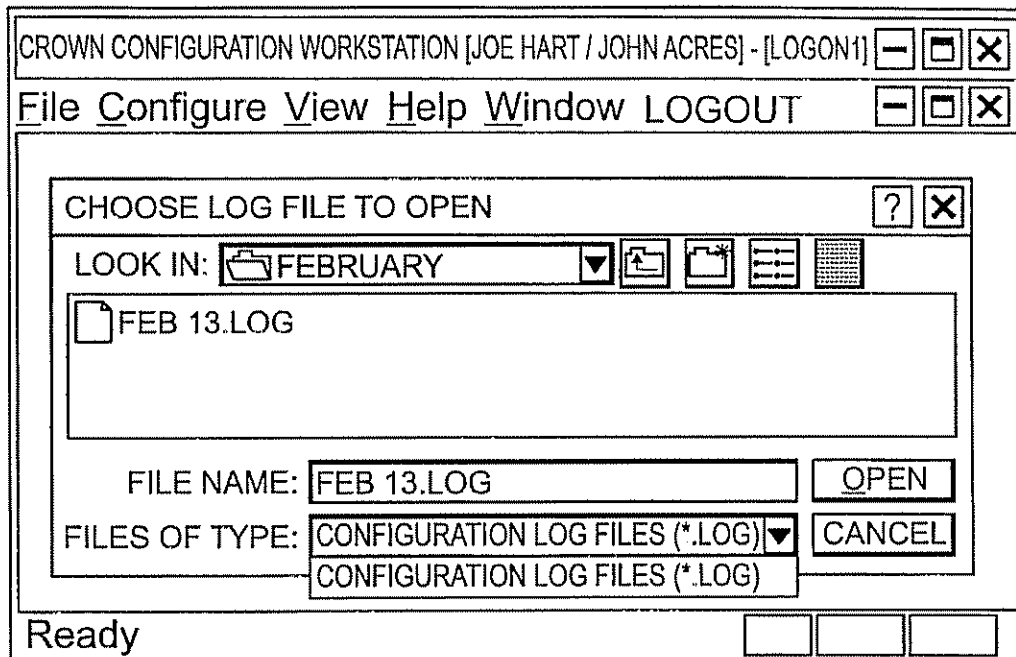


Fig. 2F

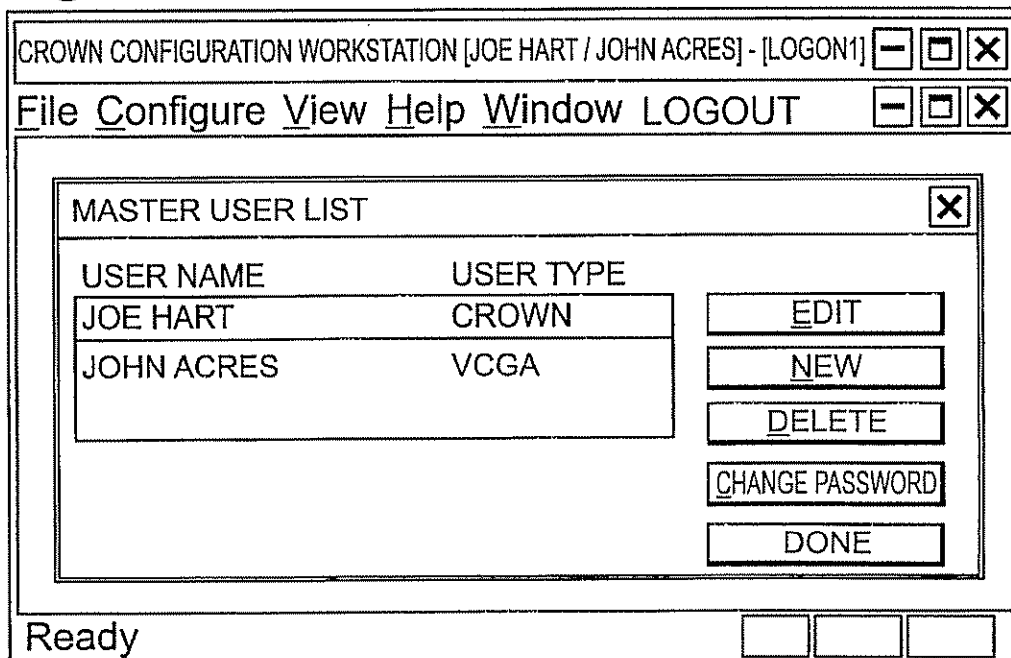


Fig. 2G

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT

USER CONFIGURATION SCREEN

USER INFORMATION

FIRST NAME: JOE

LAST NAME: HART

PASSWORD: ***

USER TYPE: ☒ CROWN CASINO PERSONNEL ☐ VCGA PERSONNEL

USER ACCESS RIGHTS

☒ USER CONFIGURATION

☒ BONUS CONFIGURATION

☒ GROUP CONFIGURATION

☒ UPDATE EXECUTABLES

☒ DISPLAY MESSAGE CONFIGURATION

☒ BANK CONTROLLER ID / NAME TABLE

☒ CANCEL / RESET ACTIVE JACKPOTS

☒ SOFTWARE SIGNATURE OVERRIDE

☒ VIEW / PRINT LOG FILES

☒ VIEW CONFIGURATION PARAMETERS

OK CANCEL

Ready

Fig. 2H

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1] [Min] [Max] [Close]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT [Min] [Max] [Close]

BANK CONTROLLER ID / DESCRIPTION TABLE [Close]

BCID ID NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
123	SOUTH END FLOOR

BCID ID NUMBER:

DESCRIPTION:

Ready [Min] [Max] [Close]

Fig. 2I

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1] [Min] [Max] [Close]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT [Min] [Max] [Close]

MANAGE GROUPS [Close]

DEFINED GROUPS

ITEMS IN GROUP
FLOOR LOCATION

GROUP TYPE
☒ BONUS
☐ DISPLAY
☐ SOUND

ENTER THE NAME OF THE GROUP [Close]

GROUP NAMES:

0 GROUP(S)

Ready [Min] [Max] [Close]

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Fig. 2J

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1] [Minimize] [Maximize] [Close]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT [Minimize] [Maximize] [Close]

<u>M</u> ESSAGE EDITOR
<u>B</u> ONUS INFORMATION
<u>G</u> ROUP INFORMATION
<u>B</u> AND CONTROLLER ID / NAME TABLE
<u>U</u> SER INFORMATION

Ready [] [] []

Fig. 2K

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1] [Minimize] [Maximize] [Close]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT [Minimize] [Maximize] [Close]

MYSTERY BONUS SETUP FOR MYSTER: (PAGE 1 OF 6)

MYSTERY BONUS SETTINGS

POOL NAME: MYSTERY1

LUCKY NUMBER MIN: 2000

LUCKY NUMBER MAX: 5500

CURRENT INCREMENT %: 50

HIDDEN POOL AMOUNT: 500 HIDDEN INCREMENT %: 10

BONUS TYPE: MEMBER BONUS [v]

COMMUNICATION TIMEOUT/ACTION

☒ DO NOTHING

☐ DISPLAY MESSAGE AND CONTINUE

☐ DISPLAY MESSAGE AND LOCK MACHINE

MESSAGE TO DISPLAY []

<BACK NEXT> CANCEL

Ready [] [] []

Fig. 2L

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1] — □ ×

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT — □ ×

MYSTERY BONUS SETUP FOR MYSTER: (PAGE 2 OF 6)

MYSTERY FLOOR LOCATION GROUPS LIST

A0102G~1
SHELLY~1

ADD

REMOVE

FLOOR LOCATIONS IN BONUS

A0102
A0103

2 MACHINES IN BONUS

<BACK NEXT> CANCEL

Ready

Fig. 2M

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1] — □ ×

File Confiagure View Help Window LOGOUT — □ ×

MYSTERY BONUS SETUP FOR MYSTER: (PAGE 4 OF 6)

☒ ENABLE CONSOlation PRIZE

CONSOLATION PRIZE SETTINGS

BASE CONSOLATION \$: 100

MEMBER CARD AWARD (%): 200

NUMBER CARD AWARD (%): 100

UNCARED AWARD (%): 50

☒ ELIGIBILITY REQUIRED

☒ ENABLE FLASHING FLUORESCENT

DURATION: 0

☐ BONUS BUTTON PRESS REQUIRED

TIME LIMIT:

☐ CONSOLATION ABI TONE

ABI TONE:

REPEAT:

<BACK NEXT> CANCEL

Ready

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Fig. 2N

The image shows a screenshot of a software window titled "CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1]". The window has a menu bar with "File", "Configure", "View", "Help", and "Window". Below the menu bar is a title bar that reads "Mystery Bonus Setup for MYSTER: (PAGE 5 OF 6)". The main content area is divided into two sections: "ANTICIPATION SOUND" and "CELEBRATION SOUND". Each section has a checkbox to "ENABLE" the respective sound. Below each checkbox are three input fields: "COUNTS PRIOR TO WIN:", "CD SEQUENCE NUMBER:", and "REPEAT:". To the right of these fields are two more input fields: "DURATION:" and "VOLUME:". At the bottom of the window, there are three buttons: "<BACK", "NEXT>", and "CANCEL". The status bar at the bottom right of the window displays the word "Ready".

CROWN CONFIGURATION WORKSTATION [JOE HART / JOHN ACRES] - [LOGON1]

File Configure View Help Window LOGOUT

MYSTERY BONUS SETUP FOR MYSTER: (PAGE 5 OF 6)

SOUND GROUP: [<NONE>]

ANTICIPATION SOUND

☐ ENABLE ANTICIPATION SOUND

COUNTS PRIOR TO WIN: [0]

CD SEQUENCE NUMBER: [0]

REPEAT: [0]

DURATION: [0] VOLUME: [0]

CELEBRATION SOUND

☐ ENABLE CELEBRATION SOUND

CD SEQUENCE NUMBER: [0]

REPEAT: [0]

DURATION: [0] VOLUME: [0]

<BACK NEXT> CANCEL

Ready

Fig. 3

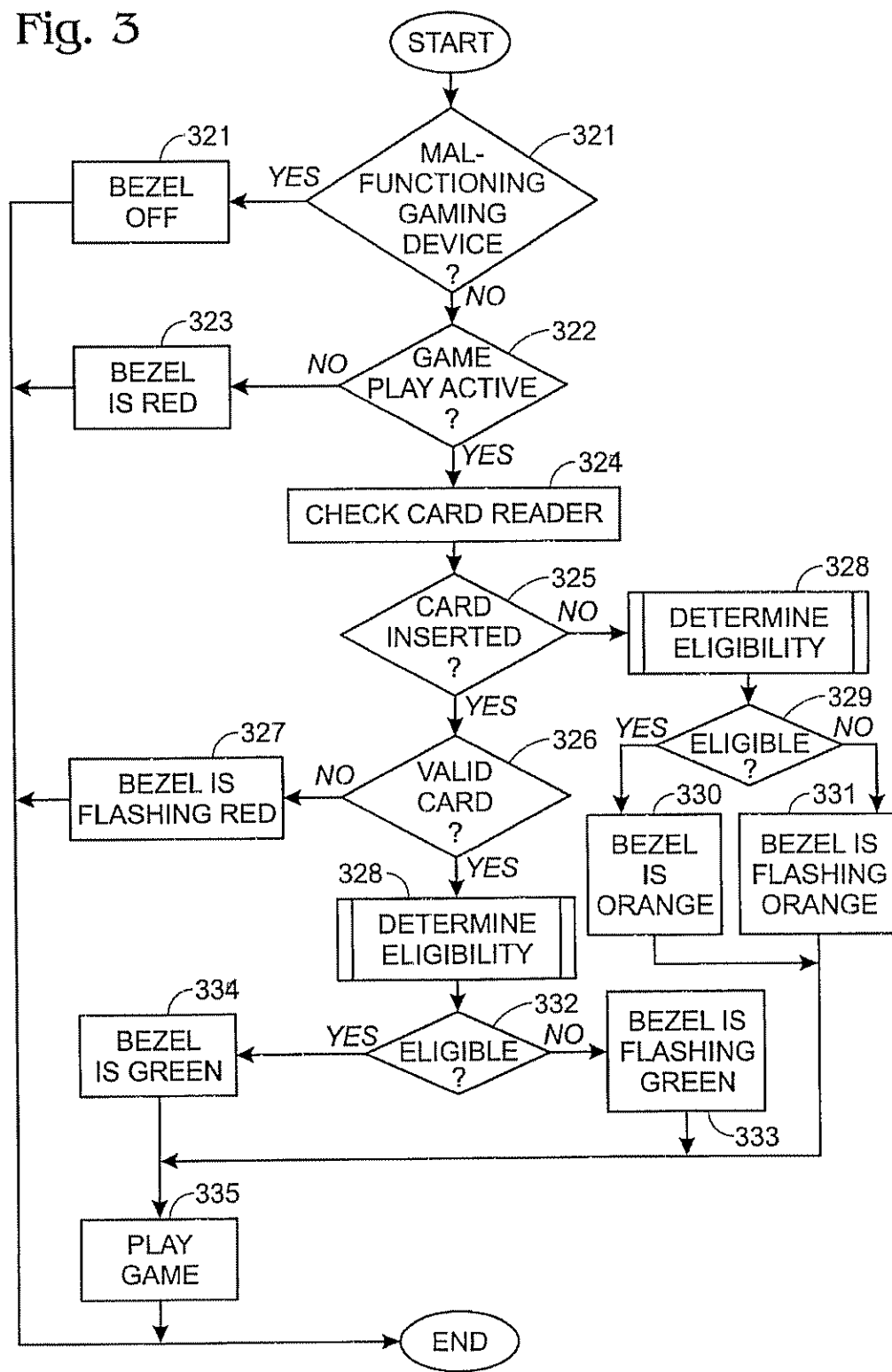


Fig. 4

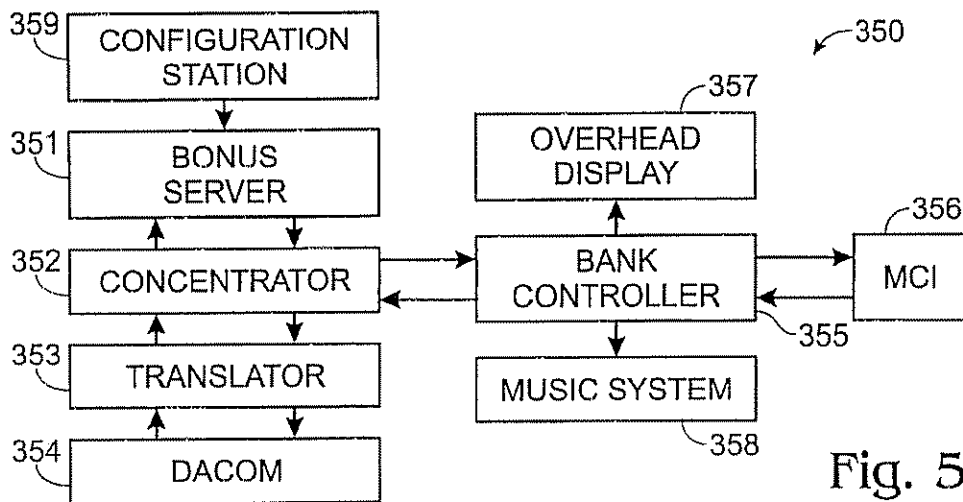
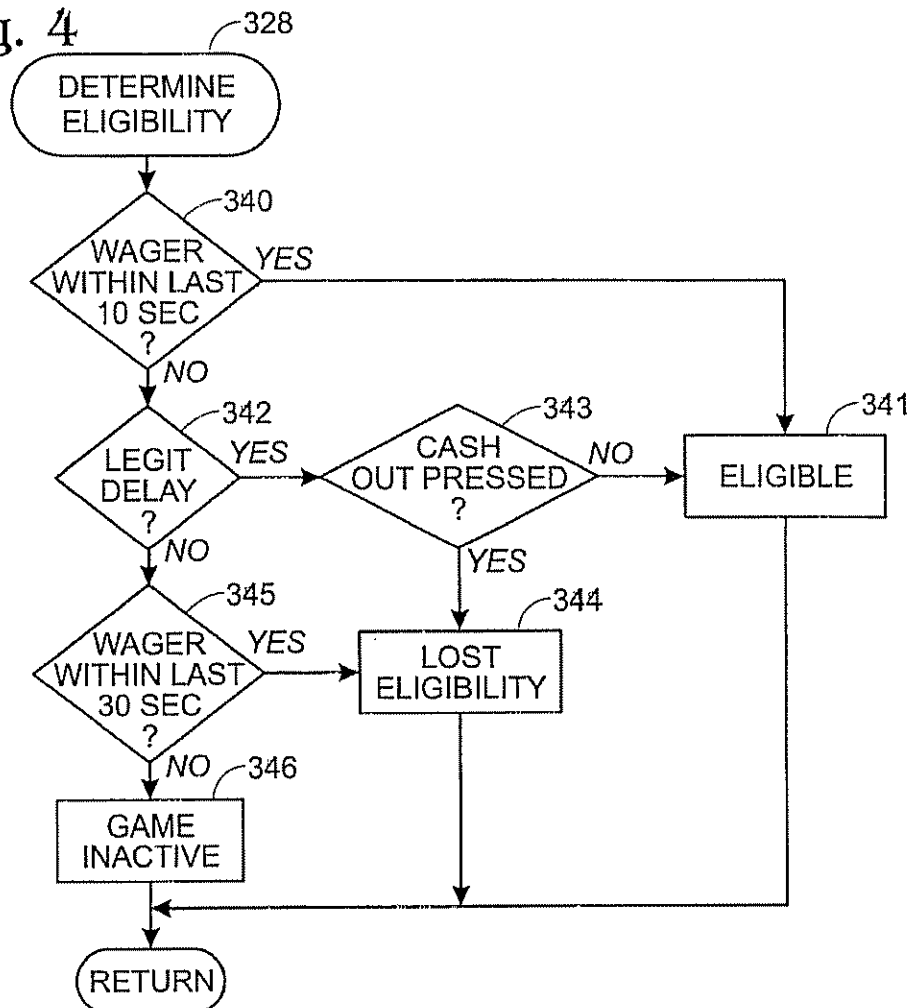


Fig. 5

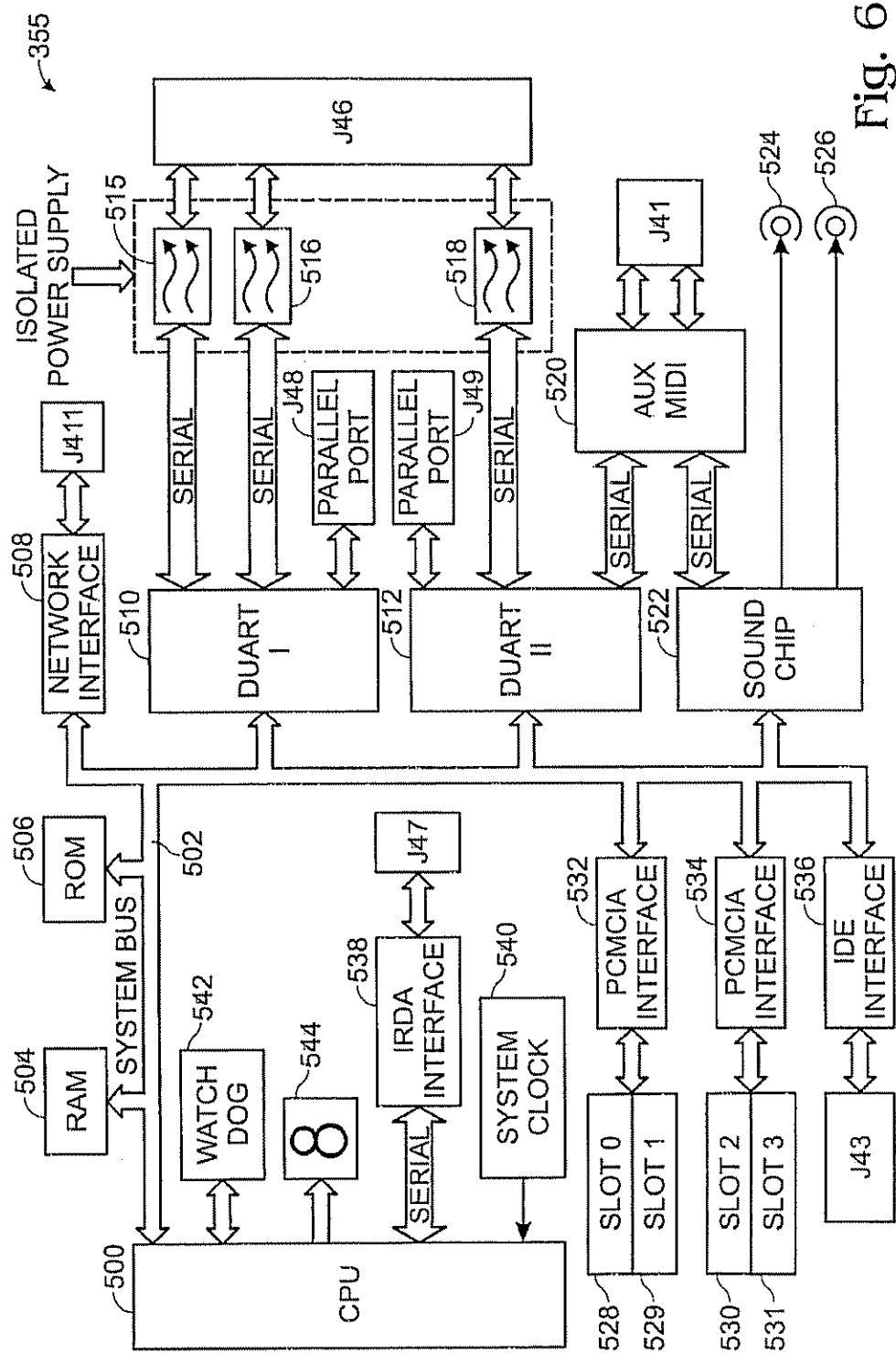
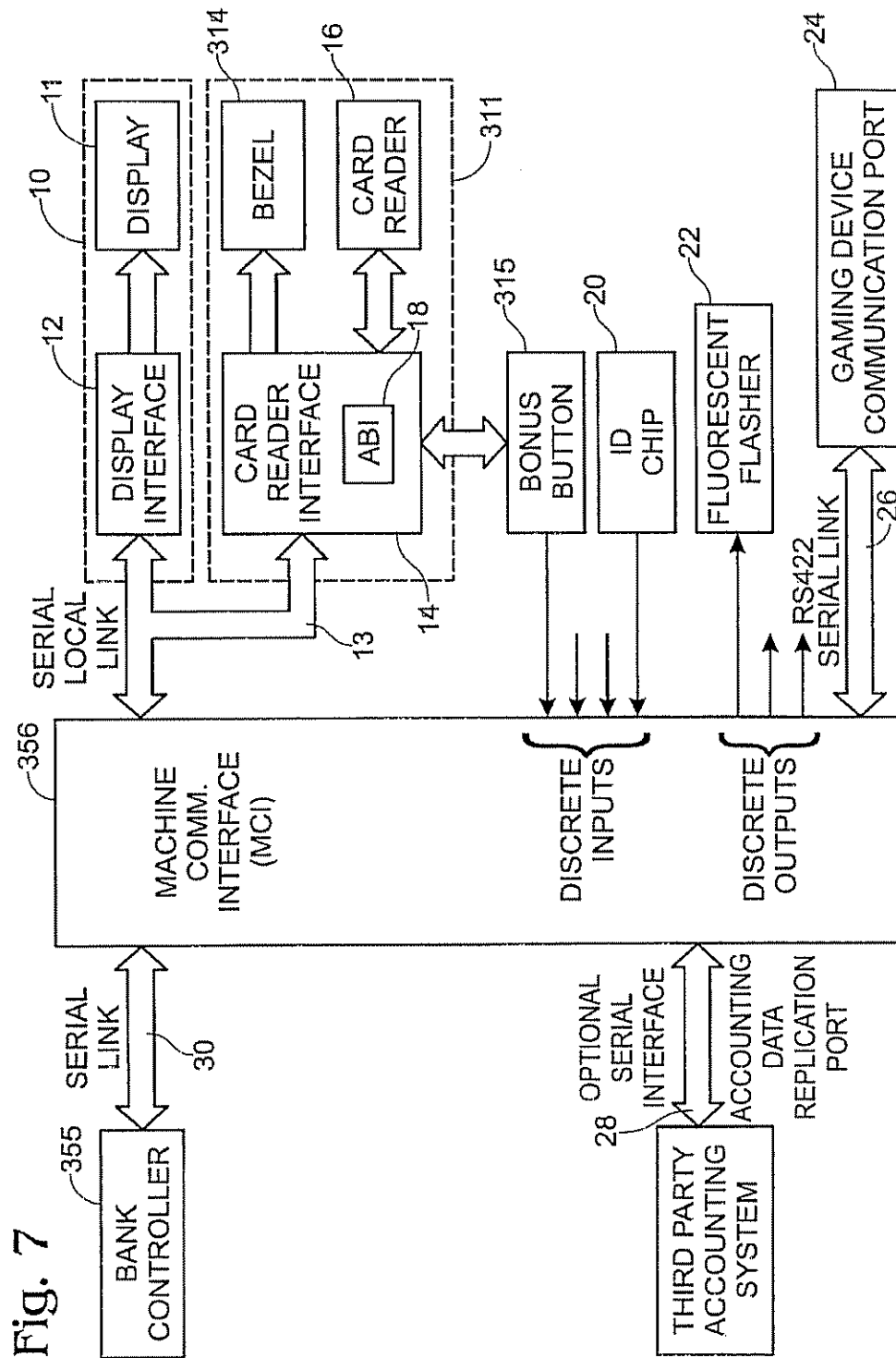
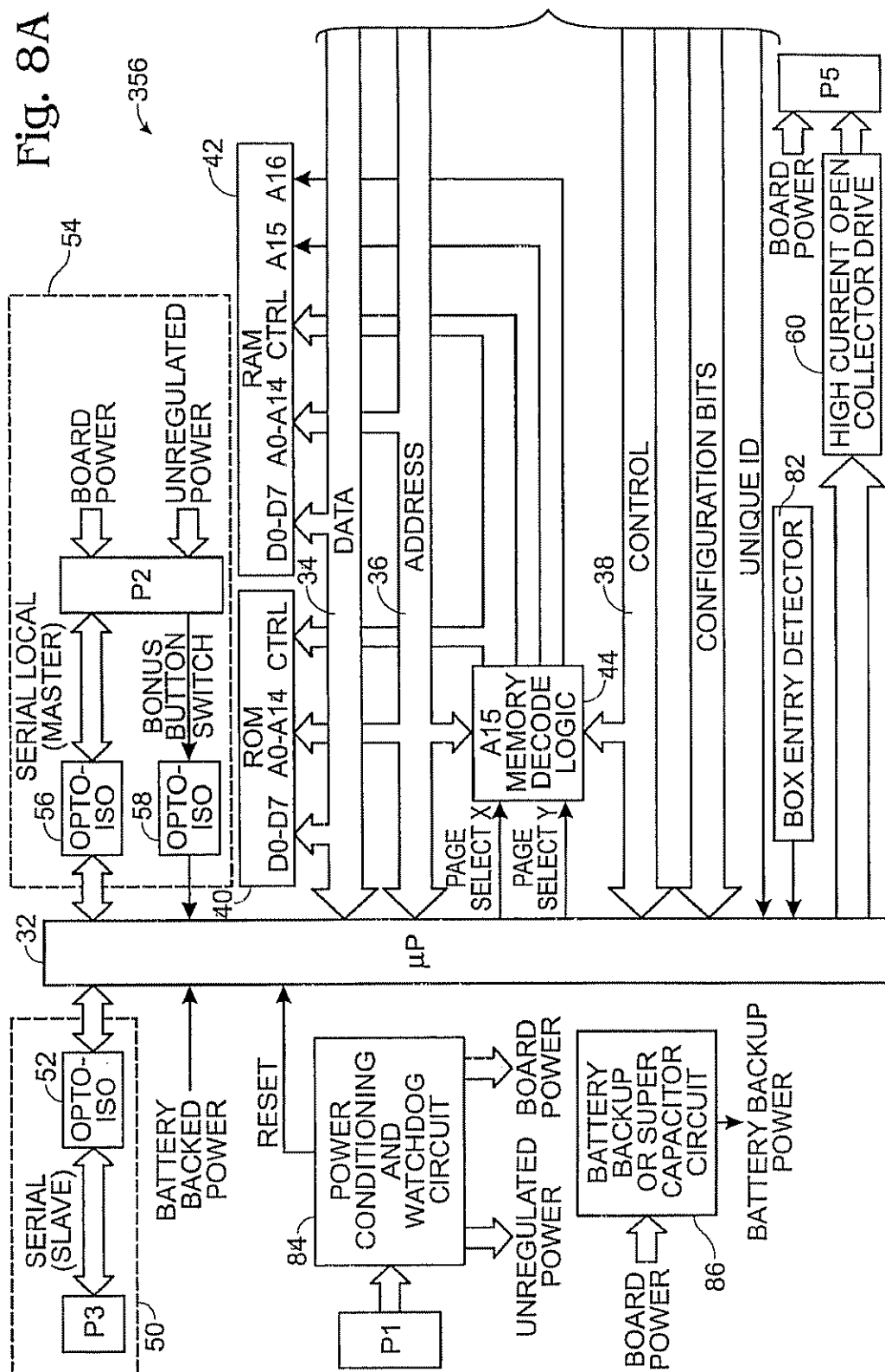
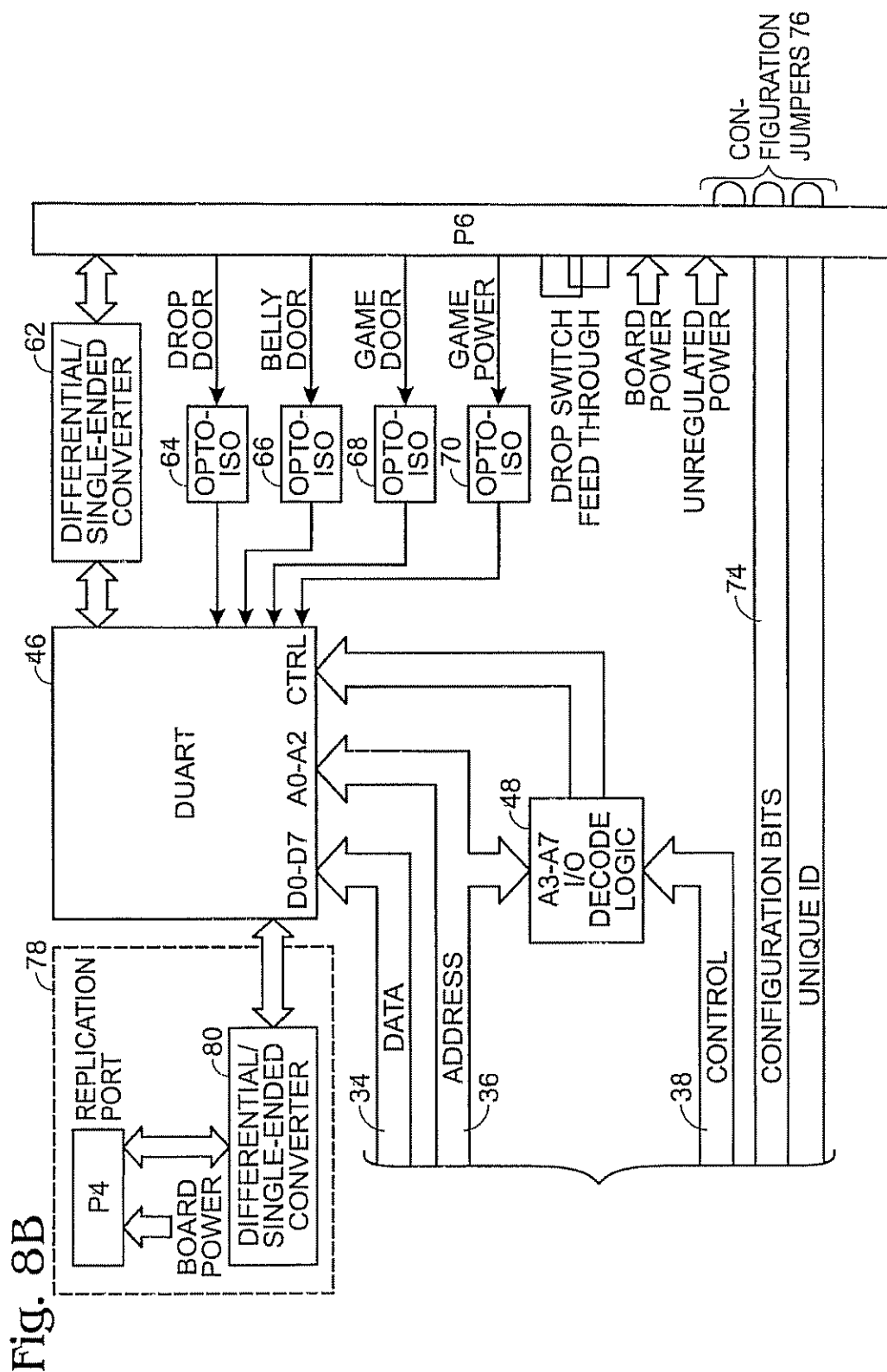


Fig. 6







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Fig. 9A

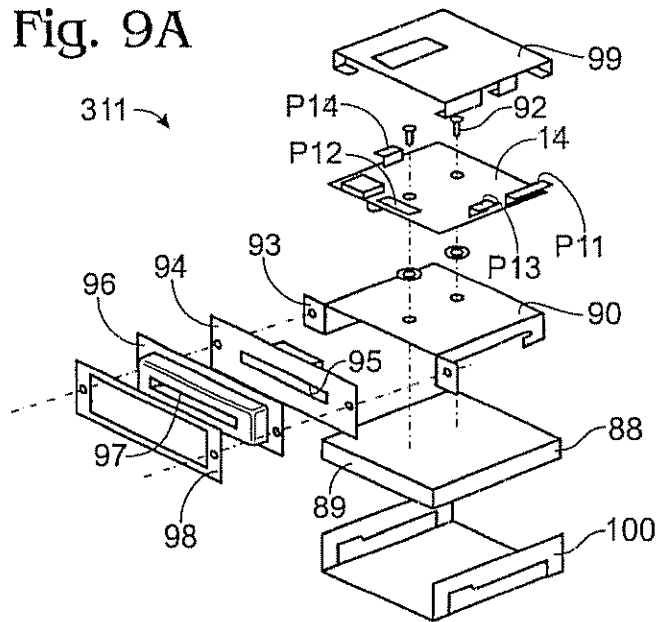


Fig. 9B

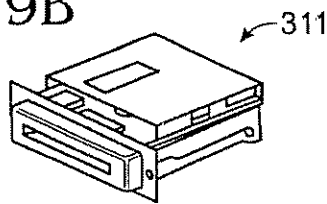


Fig. 9C

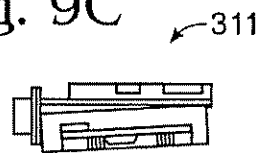


Fig. 11

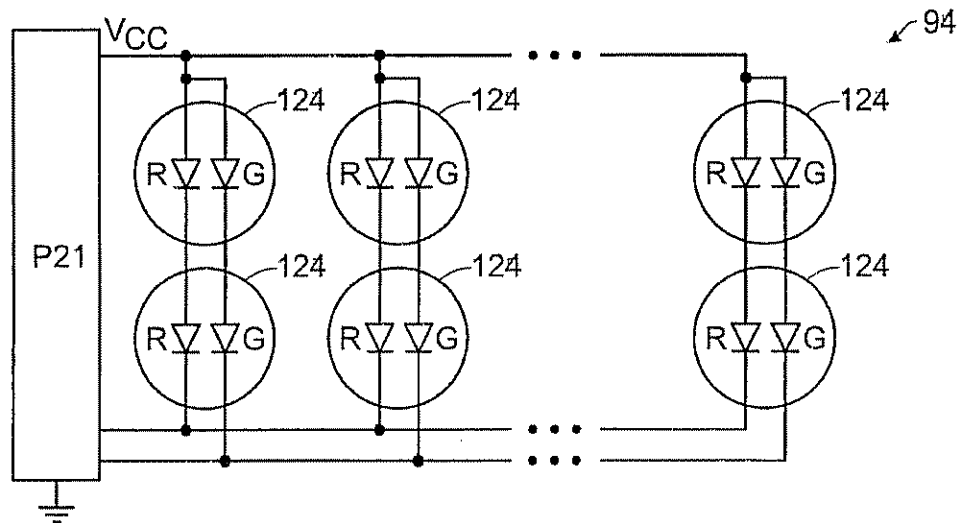
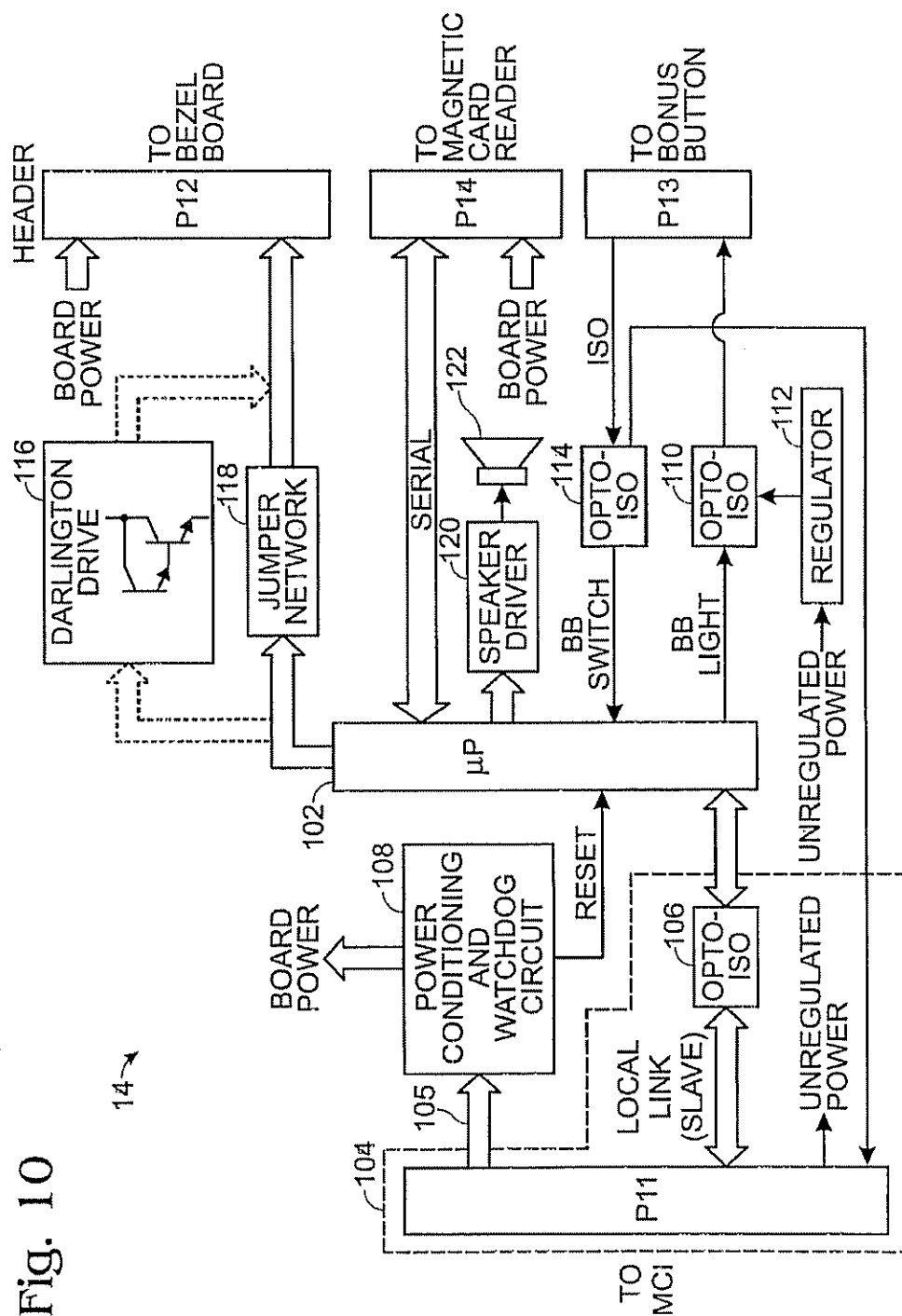


Fig. 10



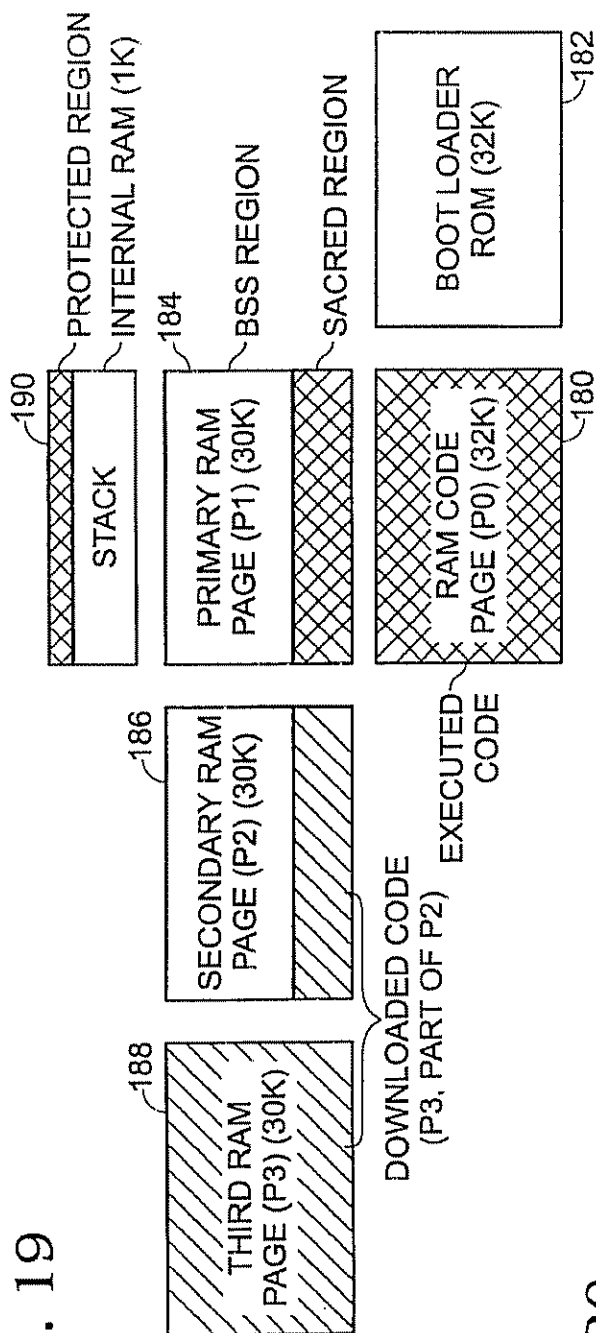


Fig. 19

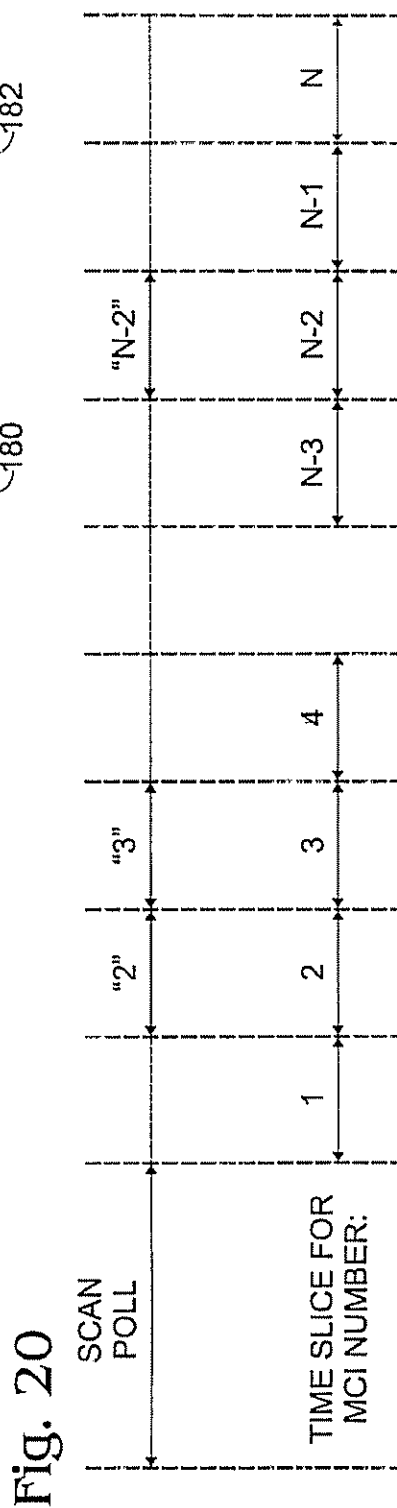


Fig. 20

Fig. 21

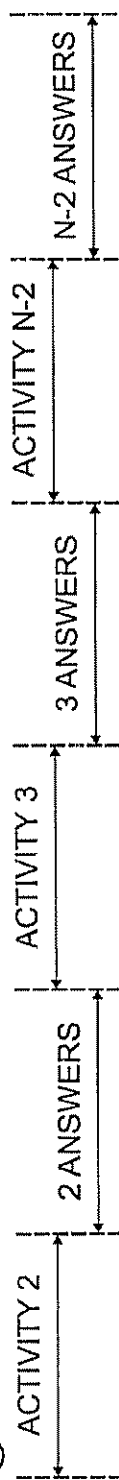


Fig. 22

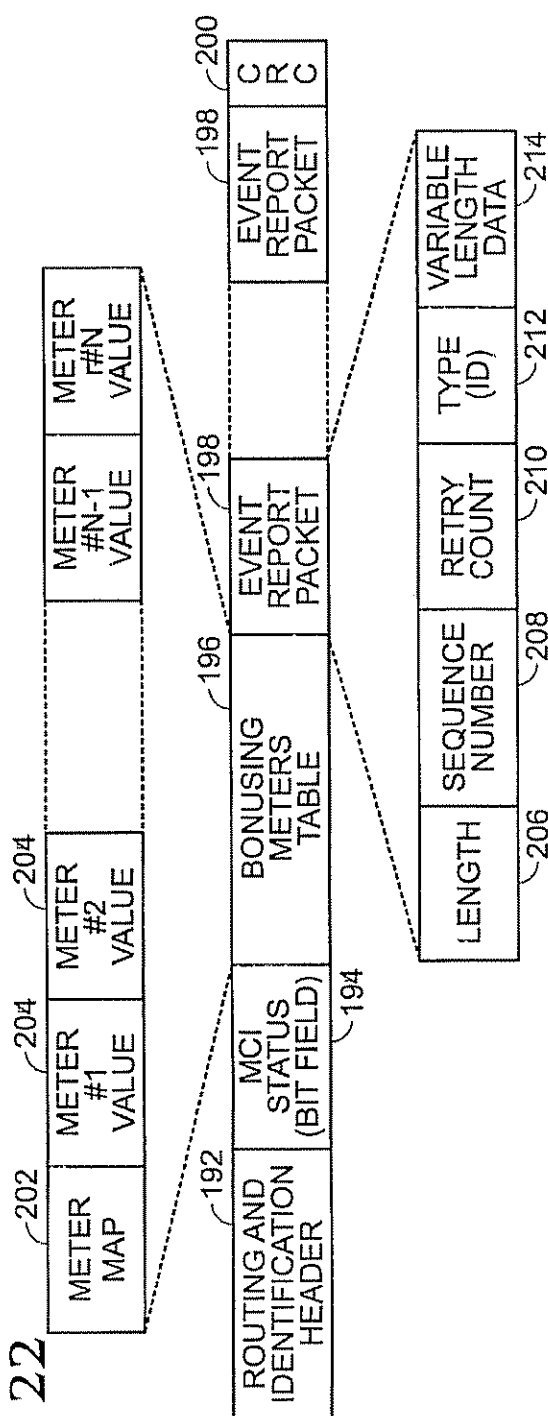


Fig. 23

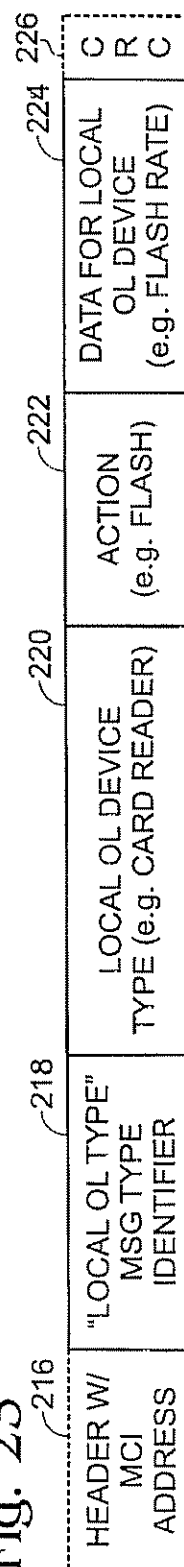


Fig. 24

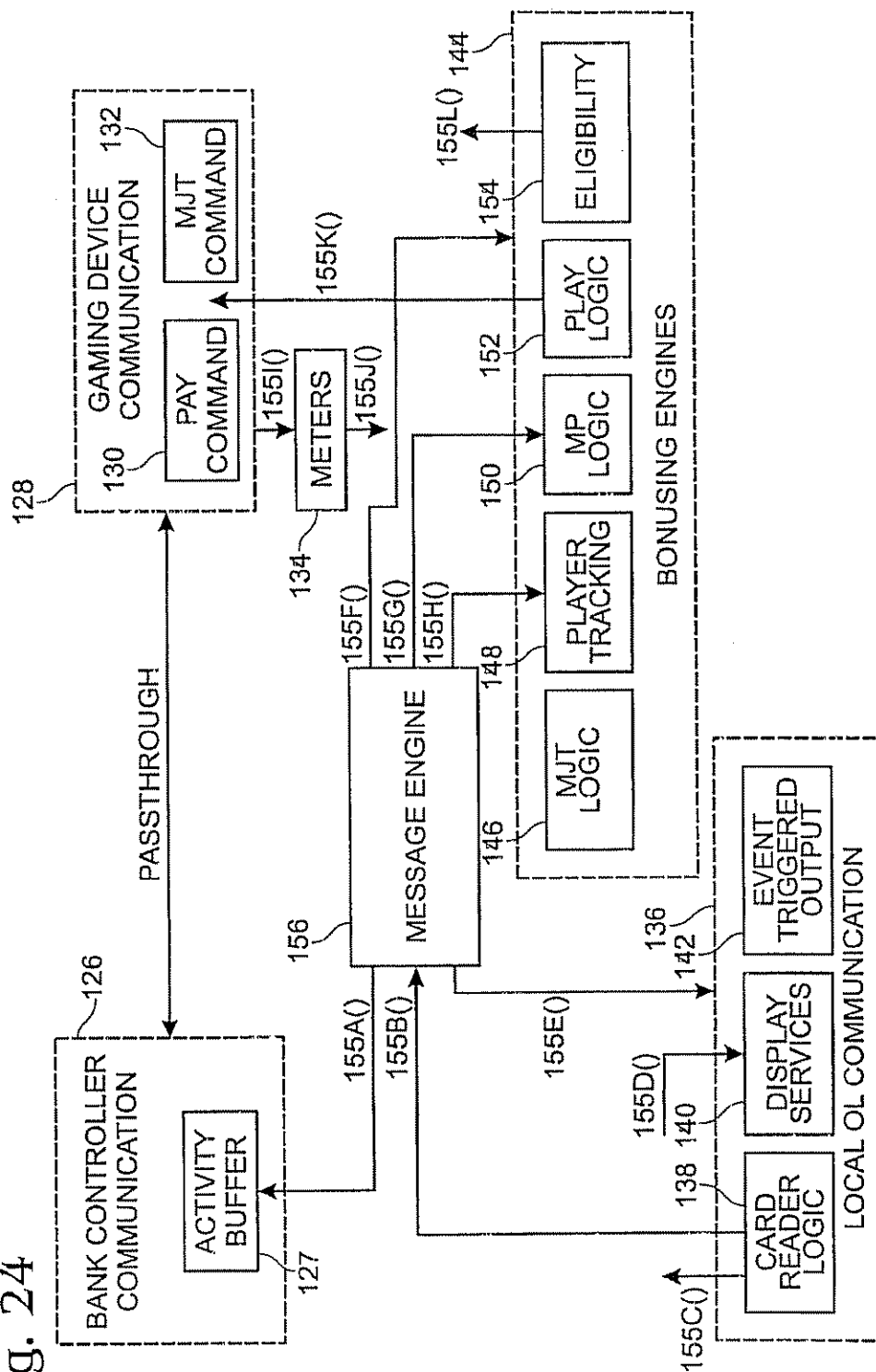


Fig. 25

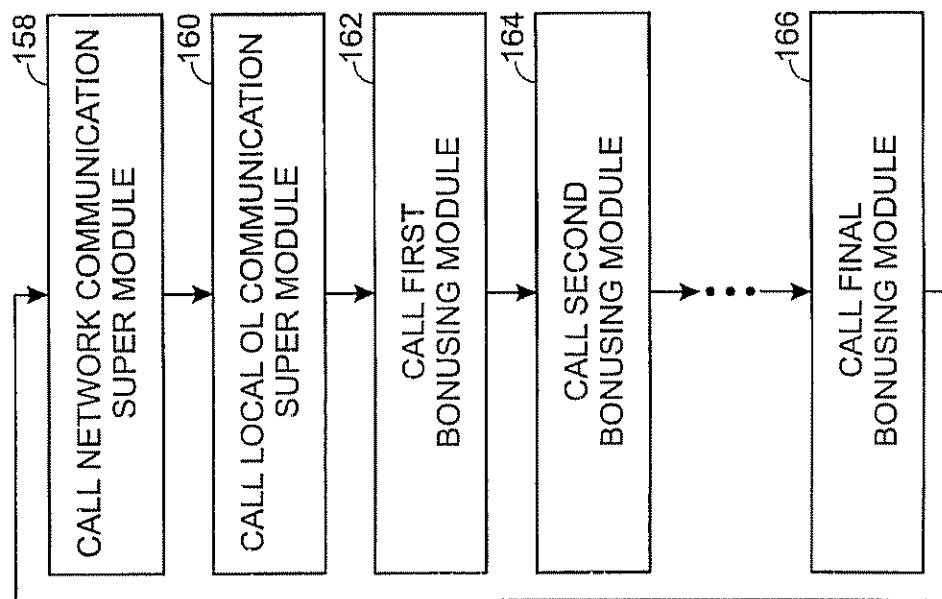


Fig. 26

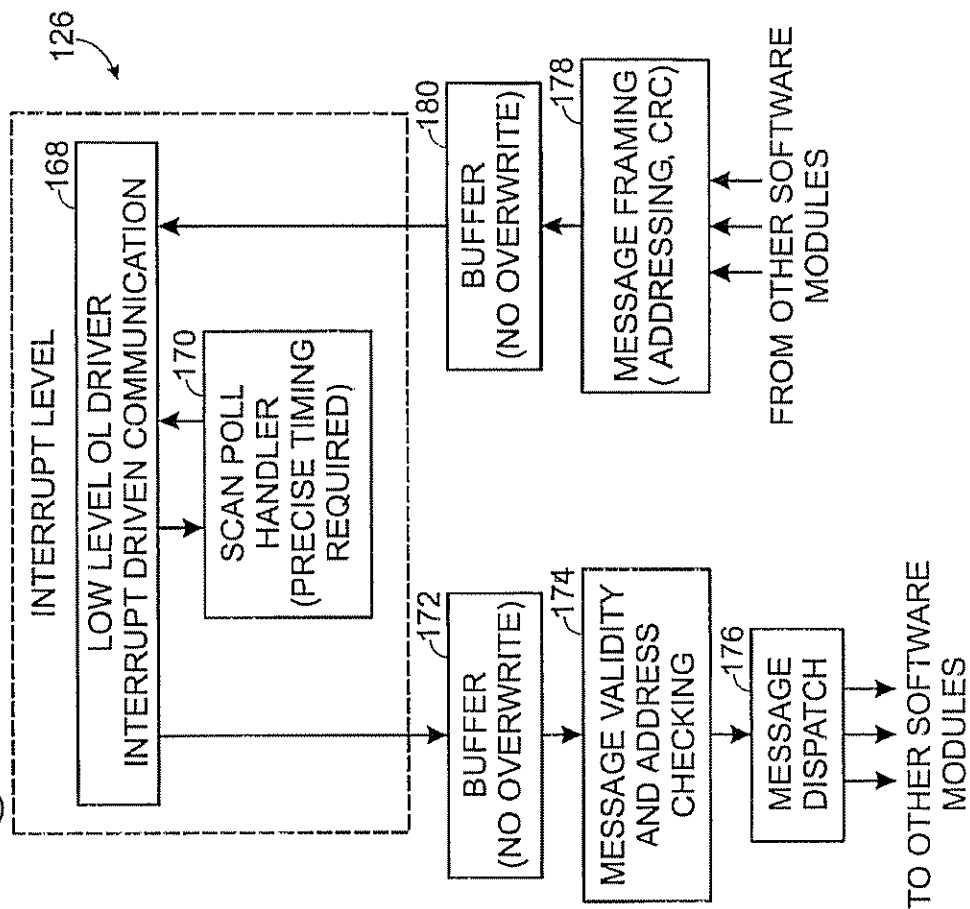
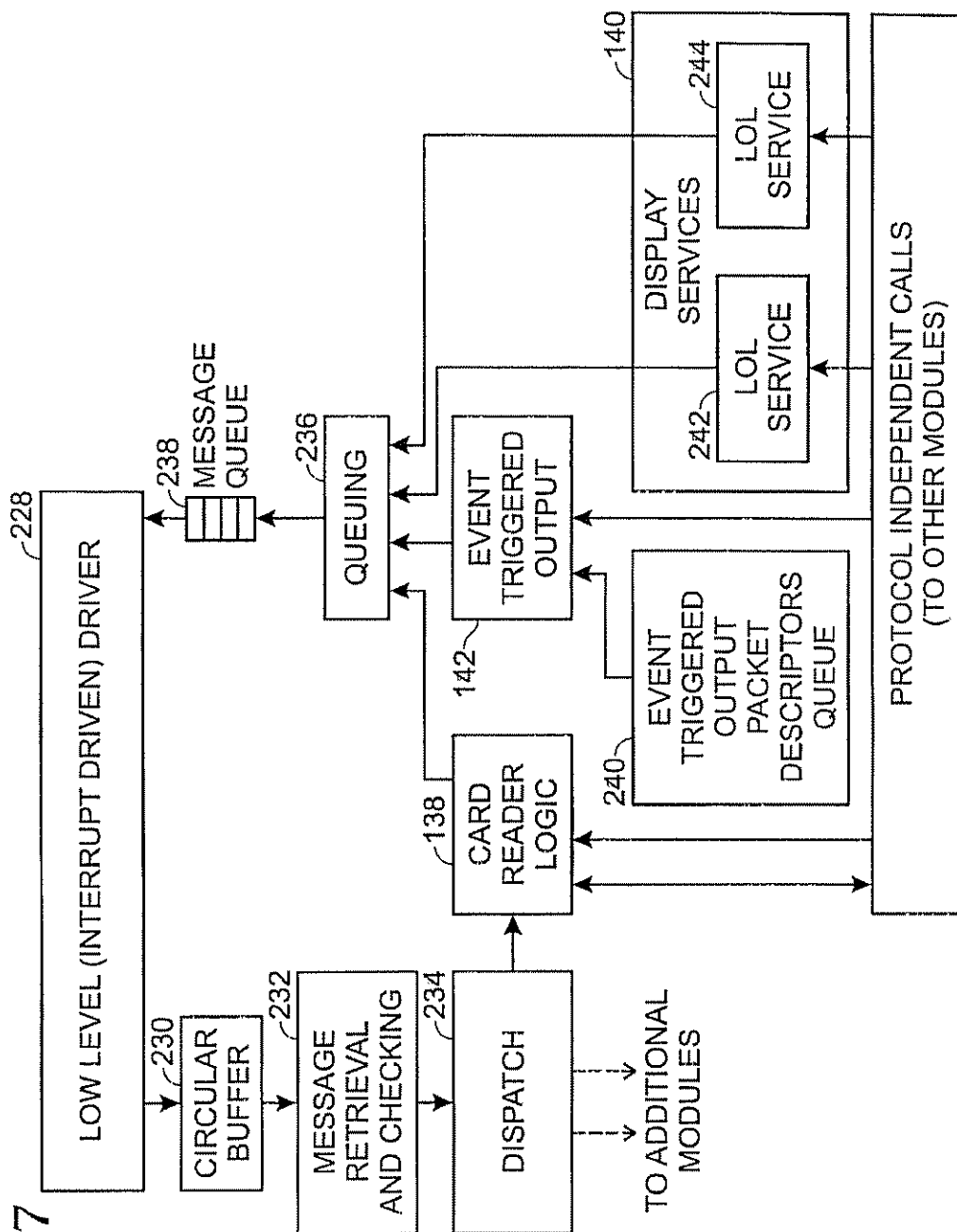


Fig. 27



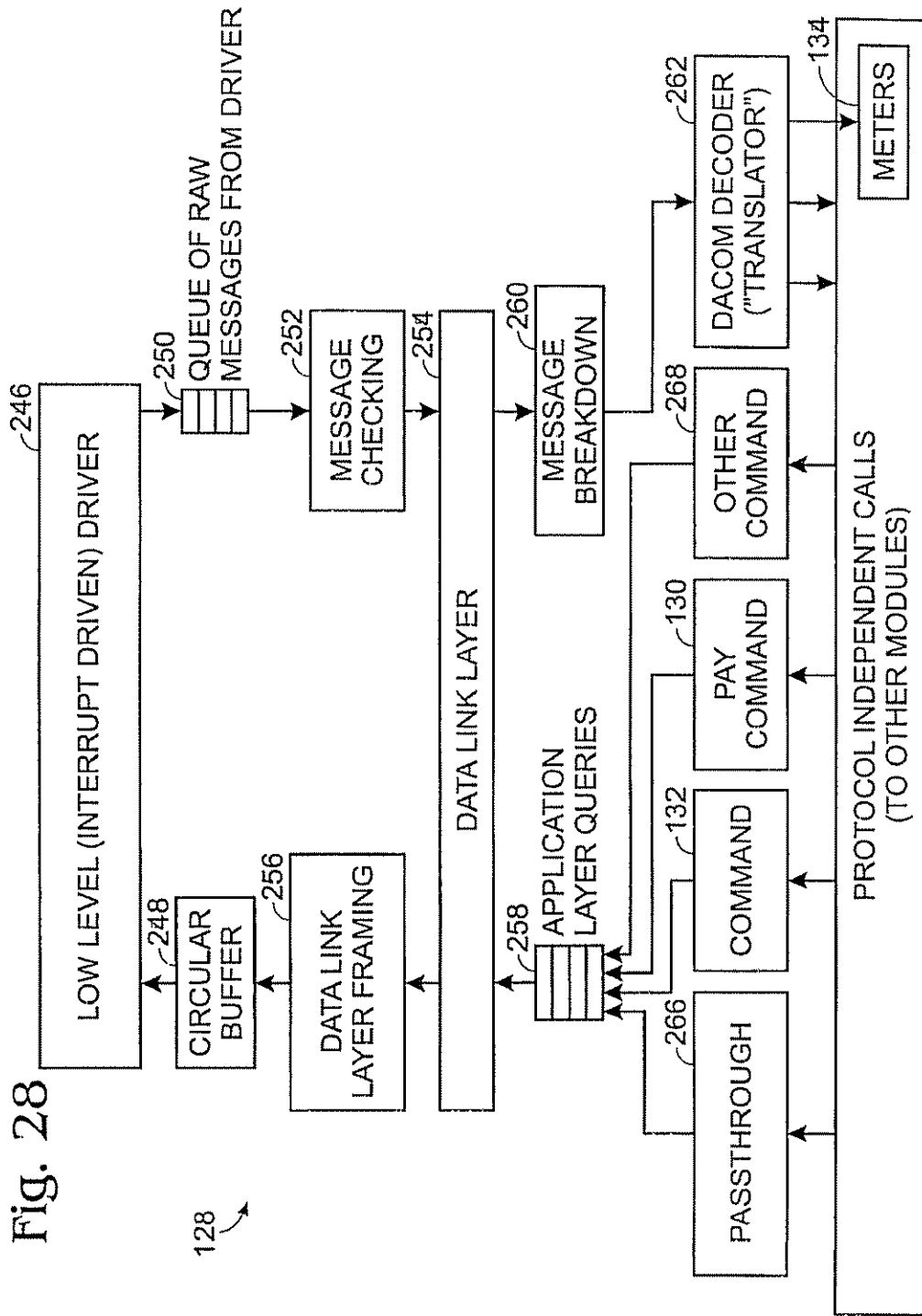


Fig. 31

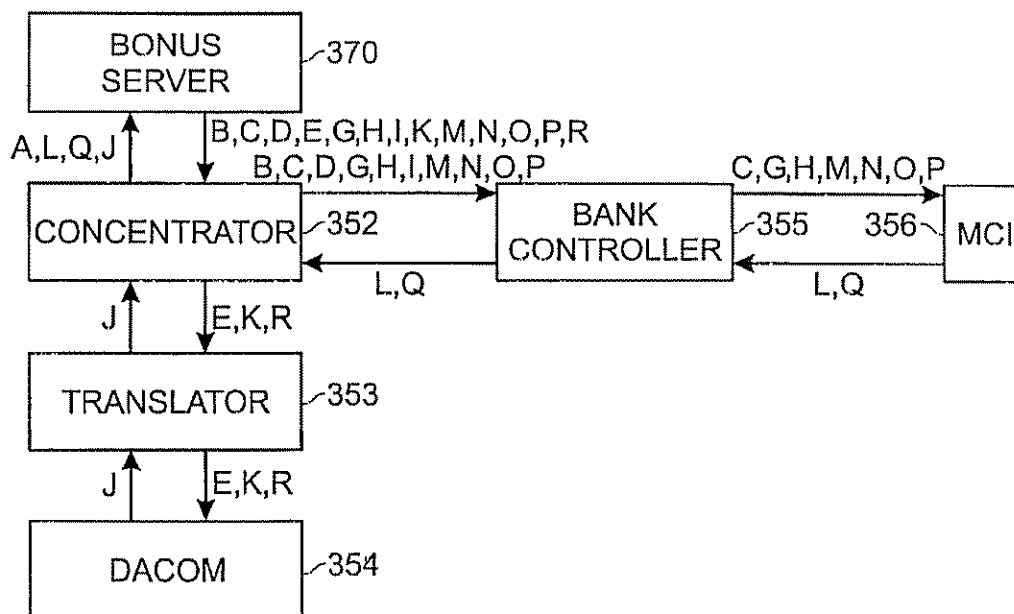


Fig. 32

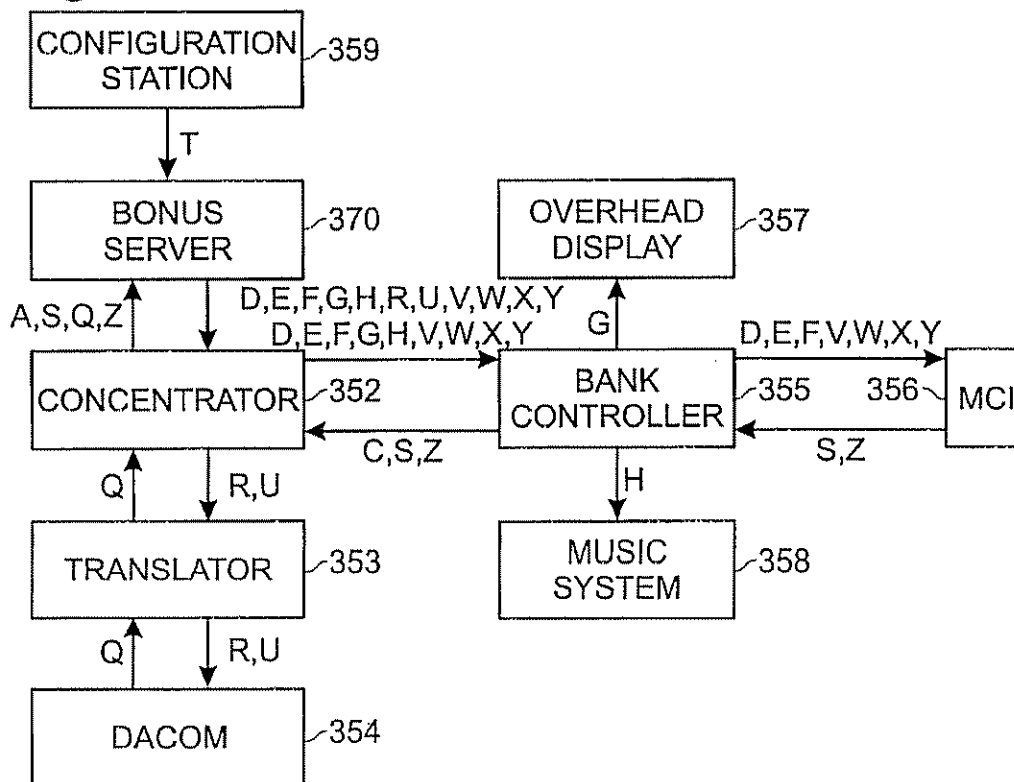


Fig. 33

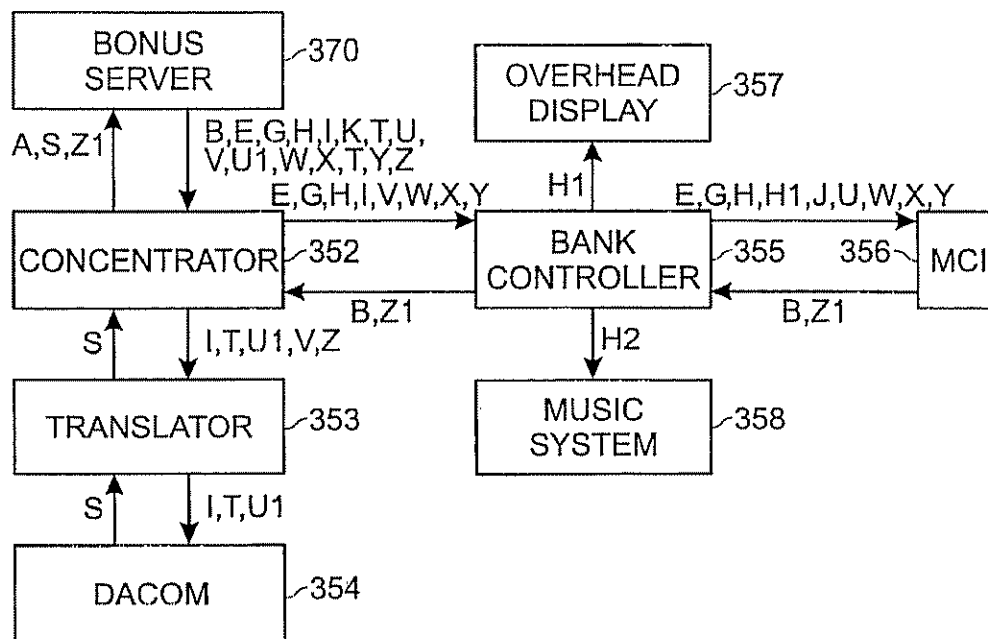
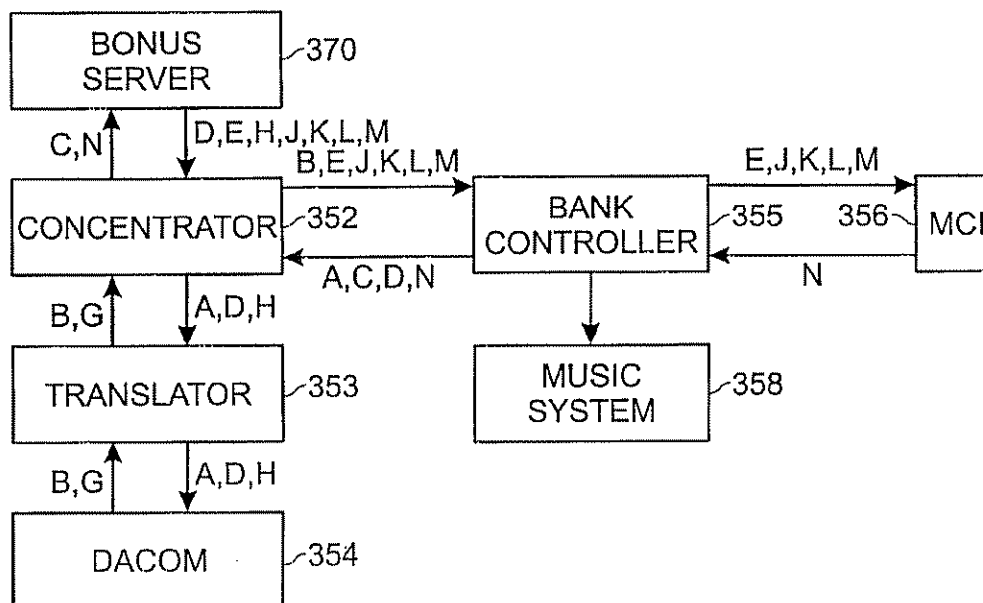
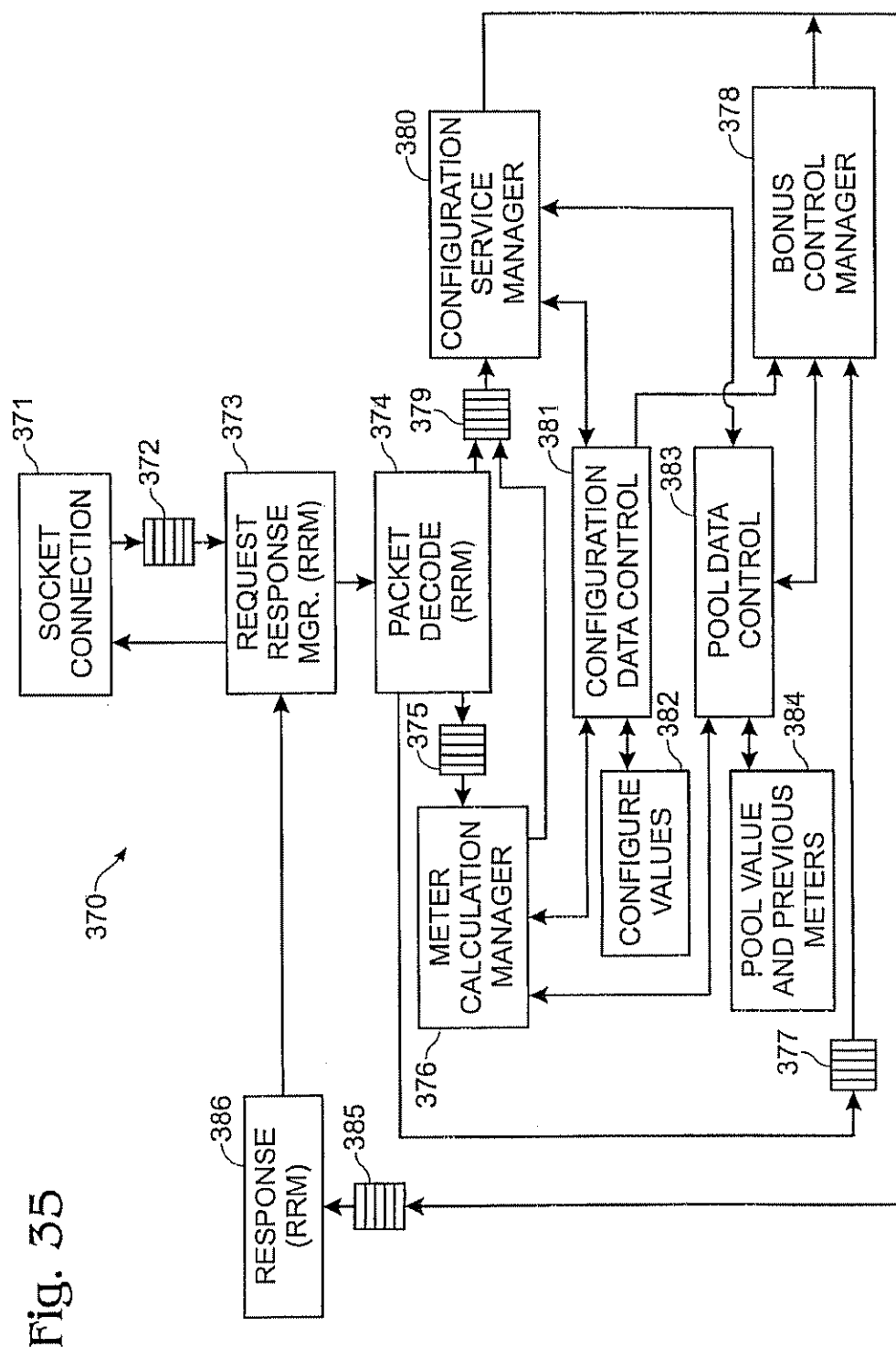
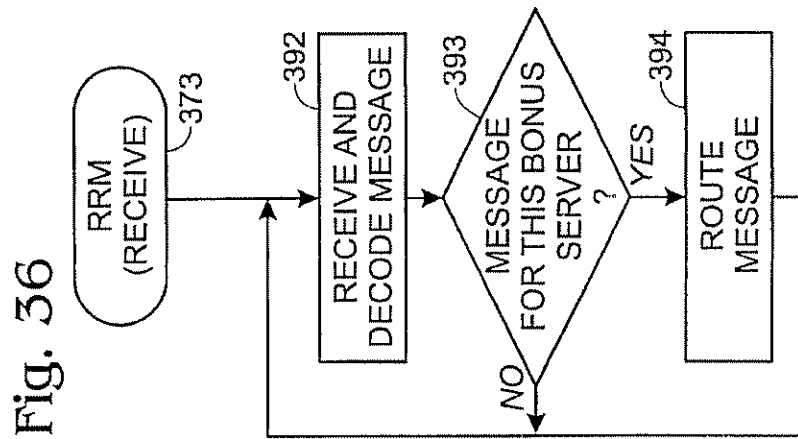
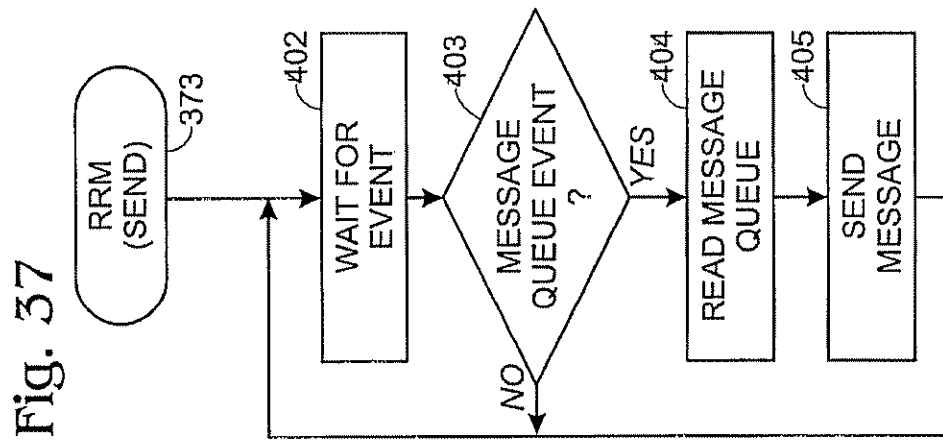
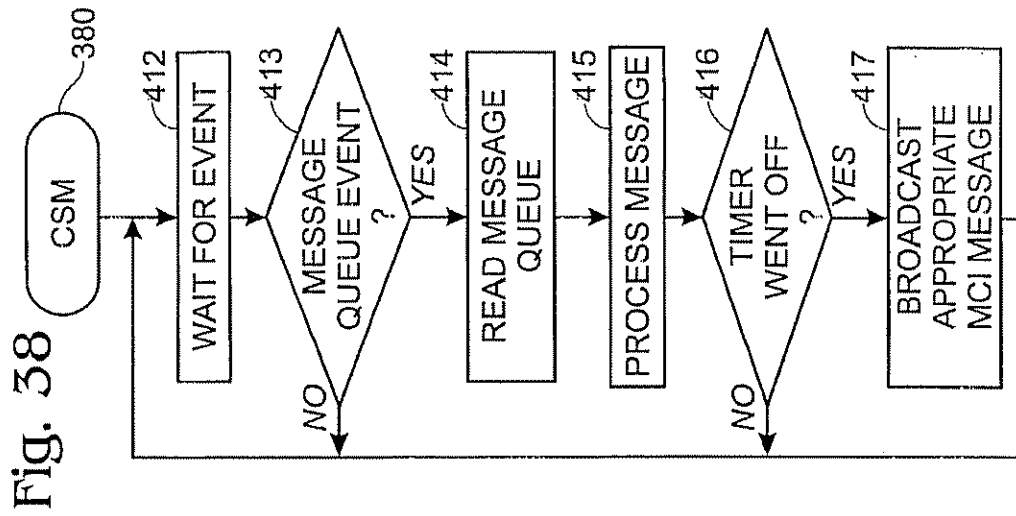


Fig. 34







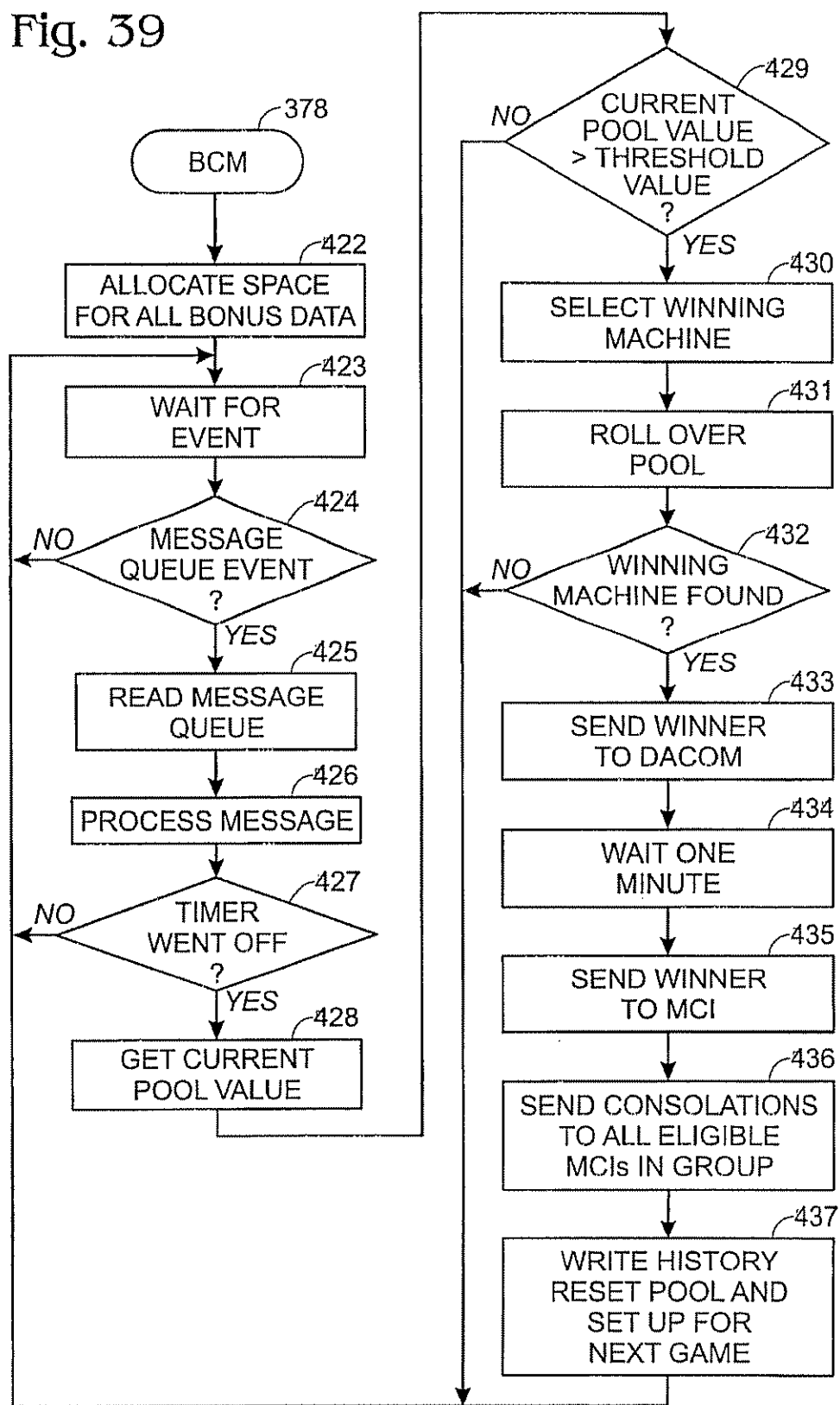
U.S. Patent

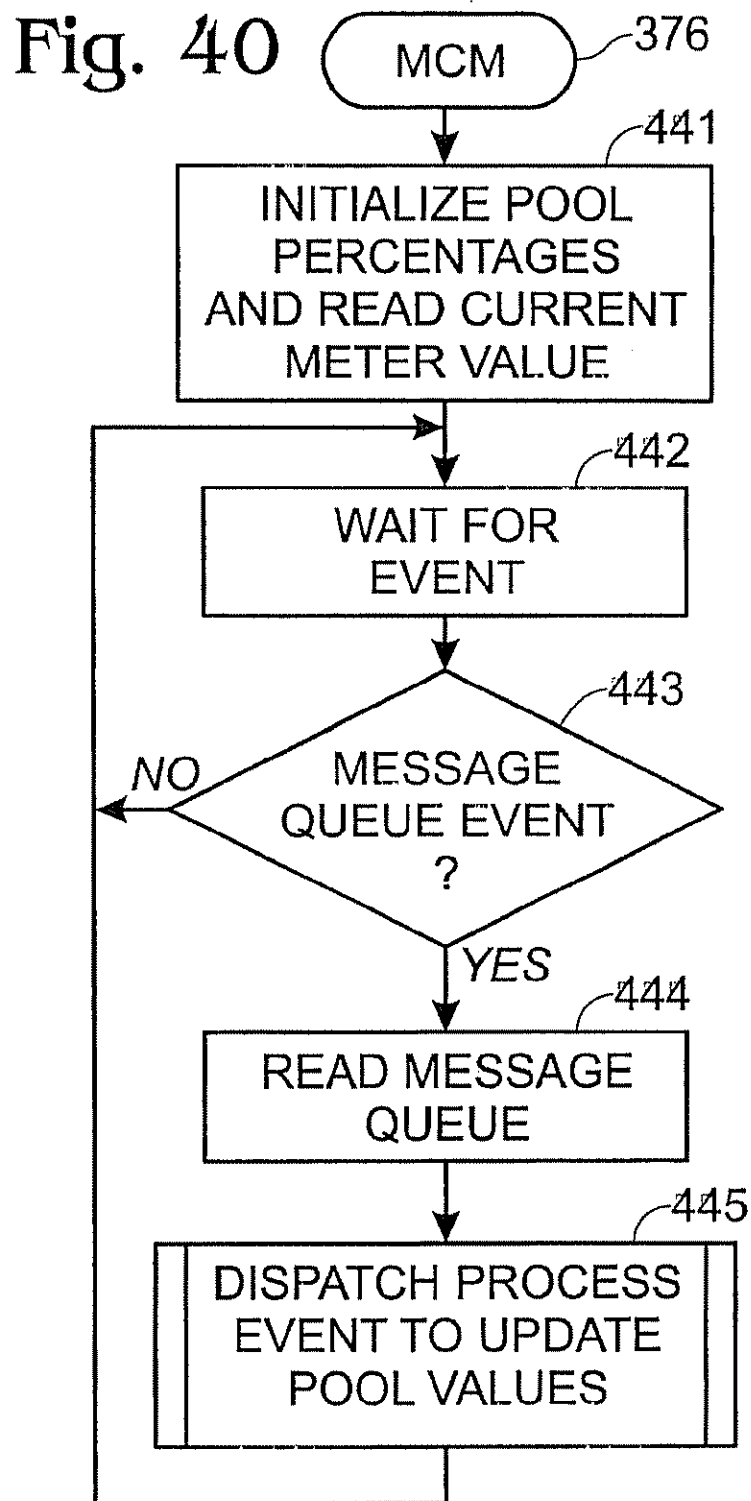
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Fig. 39





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Fig. 41A

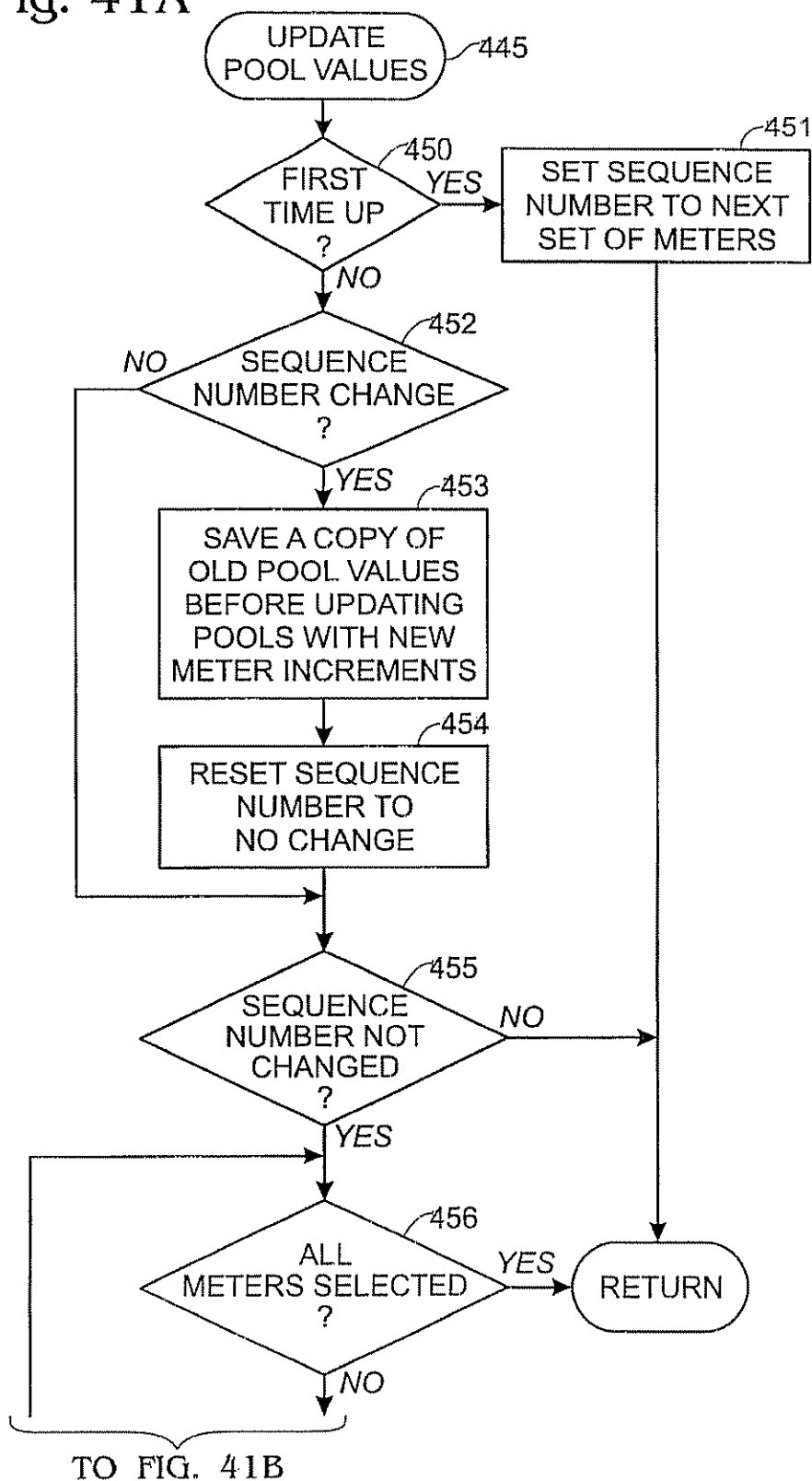


Fig. 41B

